



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

SILVER LAKE STATE PARK OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREA

2003 OPERATIONAL UPDATE

This year there have not been any major changes in the rules and regulations covering operations at the Silver Lake State Park Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area. Over the last few years, a number of changes have been introduced in an attempt to best resolve concerns that were brought to the attention of the State Park administration. However, there is one change regarding the distribution of Parking Lot Vouchers, which is covered below.

VOUCHER SYSTEM

The ORV Area entry voucher system, born in 2000, continues with only one minor change although for details of the complete system please see the Silver Lake State Park web site (www.michigan.gov/dnr). **This year Parking Lot Vouchers will be distributed at 9:00 P.M. the day before they are to be used.** In years past, these Vouchers were distributed at 6 P.M.

The change has been made for three reasons: #1 – To reduce congestion and conflict associated with the 5 – 7 P.M. Dune Ready group using the same line-up area. #2 – Eliminate the need and imposition of having to come out of the ORV Area to procure a Voucher for the following day, just to get back in line to re-enter the ORV Area, for the remainder of the day. #3 – Reduce conflicts with those persons waiting on stand-by status at the Voucher Center. It is hoped that the change will also have the spin-off advantage of allowing visitors additional time to arrive in the Silver Lake area prior to the distribution hour, if they are traveling from some distant location. No voucher reservation program has been developed to date.

Also, visitors are directed to look for signage along the west side of Ridge Road, near the intersection at Fox Road, for the starting point of Voucher Center lines. Vehicles will be directed to move from this point in an orderly line to gain access to the Voucher Distribution Center at the appropriate times. This will keep the line up area for the park entrance off of Fox Road clear until vouchers are actually being distributed.

OPERATORS LICENSING AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

As in years past, vehicle operators will be required to have a valid driver's license except for riders twelve years of age or older who possess a valid ORV Safety Certificate. These riders may only operate ATVs and motorcycles as the training certificate specifies, while under direct supervision of a parent or adult guardian. Driver's license or ORV Safety Training certification must be presented upon demand.

SOUND LEVEL RULES AND TESTING

In 2002, a pilot program was undertaken at Silver Lake State Park to use a static or stationary sound level test on all types of ORVs and that program will continue. Noise levels are checked at a twenty-inch distance from the exhaust pipe at half the vehicle's rated maximum revolutions per minute (RPM) or as detailed in the automotive specifications SAE J1169, March 92 or SAE J1287, June 86. The maximum noise level permitted under these testing conditions will be 94 dBa which is the current limit set by the Off-Road Recreation Vehicles Act of Part 811 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.811). **All vehicles are required to have a muffler and spark arrester.** Mufflers must contain baffles that can be confirmed by inserting a flexible, plastic rod and/or meet US Forest Service approval certification.

Generally speaking, the guidelines for testing at "half the maximum rate RPM" will be based on some vehicle similarities. In most cases, full-sized vehicles with "V" configured engines will be tested at 2,500 RPM and all others at 2,000 RPM, although there may be exceptions for extremely high maximum RPM engines. Most reverse flow mufflers will meet the spark arrester requirements, as will those vehicles equipped with catalytic converters and most turbochargers. **However, straight-through mufflers, such as glass-pack designs without baffles, do not qualify as adequate spark arresters.**

Motorcycles and ATVs are tested like the full-sized vehicles by placing a sound meter at a forty-five degree angle, twenty inches from the muffler exhaust pipe. In most cases, 80 cc engines will be tested at 6,000 RPM, 125 cc at 5,000 RPM, 250 cc at 4,000 RPM and 500 + cc at 3,000 - 3,500 RPM. The Motorcycle Industry Council produces a manual detailing the standards ATVs and motorcycles must meet. A muffler that meets the Environmental Acoustic Reduction (E.A.R.) standards may be considered as a viable solution for motorcycles. Most ATVs with unaltered, factory equipped exhaust systems, that have been properly maintained, will meet the requirements. **Those vehicles that have been manufactured for "closed track" use only, such as many motocross or "dirt-bike" motorcycles, will most likely not meet the requirements.** Generally these types of vehicles are not equipped with factory installed spark arresters. **Altering the original exhaust system on any vehicle in an attempt to gain additional horsepower, may cause sound levels in excess of permitted levels.**

Persons with suspended driver's licenses may not operate ORVs at Silver Lake State Park.

**MICHIGAN PARKS & RECREATION BUREAU
P.O. BOX 30257
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7757**

web site: www.michigan.gov/dnr

**SILVER LAKE STATE PARK
9679 – W STATE PARK ROAD
MEARS, MICHIGAN 49436
TELEPHONE: 231-873-3083**